

Media, PA— Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) emphasized his support for a second economic stimulus package, a version of which he helped the House pass on September 26. Discussing economic issues with representatives from the Delaware County Transportation Management Association (DCTMA), the Congressman stressed the potential for creating jobs and easing his constituents' financial burden through investments in infrastructure and mass transit. For instance, the stimulus legislation passed last month includes \$12.8 billion for the nation's aging highways and bridges to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion. Moreover, it allocates \$3.6 billion to purchase buses and equipment needed to expand public transportation and to make improvements to facilities. An additional \$1 billion meets growing demand for public transportation due to higher gas prices while reducing American gasoline consumption. —

“Our nation's transportation infrastructure requires many upgrades and rising fuel costs have put more stress on public transportation,” said Congressman Sestak. “Addressing these two issues can create jobs for the more than 600,000 Americans who lost theirs this year and reduce costs for the many Americans relying more and more on public transportation.”

Rising fuel costs have some transit agencies facing service reductions or fare increases. Meanwhile, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reported an 85 million rider increase in the first quarter of 2008 when compared to the same time period in 2007, and made clear that we can expect even greater demands to be placed on our mass transit systems if gas prices remain high. Furthermore, the Congressman mentioned the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission report from earlier this year stating that our aging surface transportation system cannot manage future needs and that a major increase in Federal funding is imperative.

Considering our transportation and economic needs, the Congressman commented on the importance of (DCTMA) at this time. The organization is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the transportation network serving the county. Its mission is to provide a forum where employers, local, county, state agencies, and transit authorities can cooperatively address transportation issues and coordinate a cost-effective and efficient transportation management strategy for the county.

Attendees also expressed interest in the financial rescue package passed earlier this month. Congressman Sestak explained his support for and answered questions about the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The Congressman helped pass the legislation to ensure his constituents do not face the unavailability of affordable car, education, small business and other

consumer loans, or a crash in the stock market, where the value of life savings, pensions, and 401K's would be lost.

"I have been focused on the financial crisis since February when the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) alerted me that it had to stop making student loans because of credit market problems," said Congressman Sestak. "I asked Treasury Secretary Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke for intervention at that time, but they disagreed.

"Unfortunately, what began with foreclosures in sub-prime mortgages, has devastated a growing number of financial institutions, causing a widespread credit freeze, where lending has stopped because of the fear that mortgage-related securities held by banks may soon make these banks insolvent. We needed to remove the dead weights that are pulling down our economy and the bills we voted on in the House also established the necessary rigorous oversight and accountability to ensure that the plan to do so would be properly implemented."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.

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